

WELLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1948

Together with the report of

A. J. STROUD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

SWANSPOL,
WELLINGBOROUGH.

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Wellingborough Urban District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1948

Area (in acres)	8,738
Population, 1931 (census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,321
„ 1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,240
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,396
„ „ „ „ „ 1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,199
Rateable value, 1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	£161,222
Product of a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£622

Live Births.

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	481	239	242	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	25	14	11	
					506	253	253	17·91

Stillbirths.

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	12	4	8	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	-	
					13	5	8	0·46

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	..	..	..	..	335	183	152	11·86

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—rate per 1,000

Total (Live and Still) Births

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	1	1·92
Other puerperal causes	1	1·92

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	13	7	6	27·02
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	-	2	80·00
Total	..	..	..	..	15	7	8	29·64

Deaths from	(a) Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	50
„	„ (b) Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	nil.
„	„ (c) Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	nil.
„	„ (d) Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	nil.

Wellingborough Urban District Council

Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee :

MESSRS. H. C. L. WARWICK, C.C. (*Chairman*), R. D. PATERSON, J.P.,
(*Chairman of the Council*) R. D. PENDERED, B.A., J.P., S. J. ABBOTT,
A. ABRAHAMS, A. S. CAMPBELL, J. LEA, J.P., C.A., I. CRONIN,
A. F. HANKINS, MRS. G. E. LLOYD.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

JOSEPH THOMAS WILLIAM REID, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
to 15th October, 1948.

Present appointment held by

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (1st Feb. 1949)

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District Council.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, etc. :

ALEC JOSEPH STROUD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Certified Inspector
of Meat and other Foods.

DONALD BERWICK HOPKINS, A. R. San.I. M.S.I.A.

Secretary:

MISS J. PEARSON.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
SWANSPOOL,
WELLINGBOROUGH.

1st September, 1949.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Wellingborough Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS HORN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1948.

My predecessor Dr. Reed relinquished his appointment on 15th Oct. 1948, and as I did not commence duties until 1st Feb. 1949, you will appreciate the fact, that some difficulties have been experienced in completing the necessary data for this report.

I should like to thank the Executive Officers of the Council for their assistance in the collection of this information and have incorporated the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Stroud's report in mine. Next year I hope to write a more comprehensive account of the Health and circumstances of the area.

The vital statistics are satisfactory and compare favourably with other towns of similar size and with those for England and Wales.

The birth rate for the year was 17.91 and the death rate 11.86.

The infant mortality rate was 29.64.

The sanitary circumstances of the district have been well maintained.

From the section of the report dealing with Housing, it will be seen that every effort is being made to deal with the Housing problem which still remains acute.

As bathing in the river Nene is undesirable from a health point of view, the need for a Public Swimming Baths for the Town is evident.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation of the help and assistance I have received from members of the Health Committee since my appointment and look forward to my tenure of service with the Council.

Your Obedient Servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.—The area of the district is 8,738 acres.

Population—For the mid year 1948, the Registrar General has estimated the resident population to have been 28,240. For the year, the natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths amounted to 171.

Deaths—After adjustment for inward and outward transferable deaths the Registrar General has assigned 335 deaths to the district for 1948. This gives a death rate of 11.86. The death rate for England and Wales for the same period was 10.8.

Of these deaths Cancer accounted for 14.92%, diseases of the chest 10.44% and diseases of the heart and circulatory system 49.55% of the total deaths.

A table showing deaths classified according to the International list of Causes of Death 1938 is given on page 21, Table No. 1 and Table No. 2 page 22 gives a list of deaths from selected causes.

Births—506 live births were assigned to the district during the period and gives a birth rate of 17.91, this shows a fall on the rate for the previous year which was 22.68.

The birth rate for England and Wales for 1948 was 17.9.

Still Births—13 Stillbirths were registered and of this number 12 were legitimate and one illegitimate. This gives a rate of 0.46 per thousand of the population and shows a decrease on the rate for 1947 which was 0.53. The rate for England and Wales for 1948 was 0.42.

Illegitimate Births—25 illegitimate births (14 male and 11 female) were assigned to the Town. This gives a rate of 49.40 per 1,000 live births and shows a fall in the rate for 1947 which was 65.78.

Maternal Mortality—Two deaths were ascribed to puerperal causes or other conditions associated with child birth. This gives a rate of 3.85 per thousand total births. Three deaths were recorded under this heading for 1947 giving a rate of 4.58.

Infant Mortality—15 Infants died before attaining their first birthday, which gives an infant mortality rate of 29.64 per 1,000 live births. This shows a fall on the rate for 1947 which was 35.99 and is also below the rate for England and Wales for 1948 which was 34.

The following table shows the infant mortality rate over a period of years.

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	War years	1946	1947	1948
65	64.3	38.8	22.6	46.6		28.16	35.99	29.64

Neonatal Mortality—This sub-division of the Infant Mortality Rate includes all infants who die within 28 days of independent existence. Seven of the 15 deaths under 1 year come under this heading. This gives a rate per 1,000 live births of 17.78. The rate for 1947 was 28.16. The causes of death of children under one year is given in Table No. 14 page 30.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Services—The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton General Hospital, Northampton assists in work connected with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases and also carries out the Bacteriological examination of samples of water as requested.

Diphtheria Antitoxin—A supply of antitoxin is kept at the Public Health Dept., Swanspool, and is available free of charge to medical practitioners for use.

A supply was also kept at the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital up to its closing down on July 5th, 1948.

Ambulance Services—This service is provided by S. John's Ambulance Brigade. There are two divisions, one in Wellingborough with three ambulances and one in Finedon with one ambulance. They serve both the Urban and Rural districts of Wellingborough. The ambulances made 743 journeys during the year and the approximate mileage covered was 14,724.

Infectious disease cases are now removed by the ambulance of the Isolation Hospital, Harborough Road, Northampton.

Nursing in the Home—Two nurses for general nursing and three for midwifery are employed by the Wellingborough Nursing Association which is affiliated to the Northants Nursing Association. During the year 239 general cases were attended. The total number of confinements attended by the Nurses as midwives was 45 and as maternity nurses 164. The total number of visits during 1948 was 10,203.

In Finedon up to 22nd September 1948, there were two district nurse midwives, but after this date there has been only one. The number of cases attended were 115 general cases, 9 cases as midwives, 25 cases as maternity nurses and 3,510 visits were paid.

Treatment Centres and Clinics—The County Council Health Dept. hold the following Clinics at Rock Street :—

Child Welfare—Tuesday afternoon.

Ante-natal—First Thursday morning of each month. Post natal—Thursday afternoon.

Sunlight—Friday afternoon.

Tuberculosis—Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Diphtheria Immunisation—First Saturday morning of each month.

Ear, Nose and Throat—Fourth Friday morning of each month.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held in Finedon on the 4th Thursday of each month.

The Minor Ailments Clinic is held at Park Street School on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and at Croyland Road School on the Wednesday afternoon.

The Manfield Orthopaedic Clinic, which acts as a local out-patient department of the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton, holds its clinic at Rock Street every Wednesday afternoon.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation—The Eastern Northants Joint Hospital Board maintained the Isolation Hospital at Finedon Road, Wellingborough up to 5th July, 1948, when it was closed down.

Infectious cases are now sent to the Isolation Hospital, Harborough Road, Northampton.

The Wellingborough Hospital—This hospital was administered by a Committee of Management and was maintained by voluntary subscriptions.

Park Hospital—This hospital was administered by the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply—The water supply to the Town is obtained from five sources, the impounding reservoir at Hardwick, the collecting trench with boreholes and deep well at Orlingbury, the well in the Wellingborough Road, Finedon, the wells at Bushfield, and the Corby District Water Company.

These sources of supply and method of treatment were described in detail in the 1946 Annual report. As these waters are hard they are partly softened at a plant at the Bushfield Water Works.

The average rainfall in inches for the year as recorded by the Councils four stations was 25.74 ins and this figure is 1.5 ins above the average rainfall.

The figures for 1948 are as follows :—

Total consumption of water .. 258,661,282 gallons.

Average Daily Consumption .. 706,725 gallons.

Consumption per head per day .. 24.88 gallons.

There is no action on the lead pipes.

During the year frequent water samples were taken and all were satisfactory.

In the Wellingborough Urban District 7,834 houses have a piped supply of water, the occupants of 469 houses are dependent on standpipes and 43 houses are without the town's supply. The corresponding figures for the year 1947 were as follows :—

Piped Water Supply 7,623 houses.

Dependent on Standpipes 496 houses.

No water supply 58 houses.

The following is a report by the Sanitary Inspector concerning houses dependent on Wells and Standpipes in the area, and the action that was taken during the year.

Water Supplies—There still exists a considerable number of houses which are dependent on well water. Many of these are, however, situated in outlying districts and outside the mains distribution area.

The water from two wells serving ten houses was, on bacteriological examination, found to be polluted. The houses were connected to the main supply and the wells abolished.

A large number of houses are at present served by stand-posts many of which are common to other properties. A considerable number of these houses are, however, such as would normally have been scheduled for clearance or demolition under the Housing Act.

Where considered reasonable, steps are being taken with a view to the provision of internal supplies and sinks to most of these properties.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage—The methods for sewage disposal for the district are as follows :—

Finedon Sewage Works—broad irrigation. The resultant effluent from these works have not been very satisfactory and the matter is being kept under observation and if no improvement is noted, steps will have to be taken in the future to alter the existing conditions or carry out a new scheme to deal with the Finedon Sewage.

The Sewage Farm at Wellingborough. This Farm has an acreage of 372 acres and sewage is treated by the broad irrigation method. This land has been demineralised and the final effluent from these works is satisfactory.

Both the Sewage Farm at Wellingborough and the Sewage Works at Finedon are well maintained.

Under the heading of House Drainage and Sanitation Mr. Stroud reports as follows :—

House Drainage and Sanitation—During the year 277 visits were made in connection with drainage work and alterations to plumbing systems, 26 hydraulic and smoke-tests were carried out.

Considerable time has also been spent in investigating the conditions arising from cesspool drainage in one residential part of the district, where some fifty houses are served by individual cesspools and septic tanks. Some of these have given rise to nuisances owing to faulty construction, resulting in the percolation of sewage into the adjoining ground and the ingress of sub-soil water.

Certain works of repair have already been carried out and facilities made available through an adjoining local authority for the frequent emptying and cleansing of the cesspools.

Having a large number of cesspools in such a limited area, certain nuisances are inevitable, especially during periods of hot weather, these being accentuated by the operation of frequent emptying, which is unpleasant even by the use of a modern mechanical emptier.

The laying of a public sewer to serve these houses has received preliminary consideration by the Council, and it is hoped that its provision will not be unduly delayed, as one is of the opinion that it is the only solution to the unsatisfactory conditions existing in this area.

Closet Accommodation—Situation similar to that reported last year, all houses being on the water carriage system with the exception of a few outlying farms and cottages.

Disinfection.—Concurrent and terminal disinfection associated with infectious diseases were carried out by liquid and gaseous disinfectants.

Steam disinfection was carried out on bedding, etc., as the occasion demanded, at the Fever Hospital disinfection plant (up to the closing of the Hospital, July 1948).

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Verminous Disinfestation—21 complaints of verminous infestation of dwelling houses were received during the year. Disinfestation was carried out at 24 premises, including 7 Council houses.

Treatment is carried out by the use of D.D.T. residual insecticides in spray or powder form. Gammexane, a comparatively recent product, in the form of smoke generators, has also been used with considerable success.

Swimming Baths—(a) Public—the only swimming place in the area is the Bathing Place in the River Nene and although the dressing accommodation is maintained satisfactorily the waters of this river are not satisfactory for bathing purposes and there is a great need for Public Swimming Baths in Wellingborough.

(b) Private—There is a swimming pool in the grounds of the Wellingborough School which is equipped with a filtering and chlorinating plant.

Moveable Dwellings, Public Health Act, 1936, S.269—Two caravan sites occur within the district, viz.: Jacksons Lane and Leighton Yard, High Street, both of which have been inspected from time to time.

The site in Leighton Yard, which has been in use since before 1939, cannot be regarded as very satisfactory. Steps were taken with a view to its discontinuance under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, but in the absence of suitable alternative accommodation for the occupants, this has not yet been effected.

One application to use land as a caravan site in York Road was refused. Informal action was taken in two instances in respect of the unauthorised siting of vans.

Caravans connected with amusement fairs were inspected as occasion arose.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, Infestation Order, 1943

Rodent Control—The work of rodent control during the year under review continued to make good progress. Altogether 73 notifications of infestations were received during the year and 1619 visits made to premises by the Rodent Operator, apart from work in connection with sewer infestation. The increase in the number of complaints and infestations found during the early and late summer marks the periods of migration of the rat population to and from the countryside.

During the year the Council adopted a scheme for the regular and systematic control of rats and mice at industrial and business premises which are liable to recurring infestation, on the basis of annual undertakings or agreements. Such agreements enable the premises to be kept clear of infestation by regular visits and treatments without waiting for occupiers to notify re-infestation. At the end of the year the number of agreements was six, amounting to £89. This number has since increased considerably.

Special attention has been directed to the Council's refuse tips and sewage farms, which are generally regarded as danger spots. Many

visits have been made to these, and although the infestations have not been of a major character, repeated treatments have resulted in these being kept under control.

A publicity campaign in the form of an exhibition and film show organised by the Infestation Section of the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with this Authority, was held during the year. Its object was to stress the seriousness of the rat menace in the town and country areas and the importance of dealing with the matter. It was visited by a large number of the general public, including parties of school children by arrangement with the County Education Department.

Sewer Maintenance—The initial treatment of the sewers in accordance with the Ministry's financially-assisted scheme, commenced at the end of 1947, was completed during the year, and followed after a period of six months by a maintenance treatment of those sections which were found to be infested. The results indicated that while certain sections had become re-infested, the degree on the whole was not nearly so great as that found on initial treatment.

The final results were as follows :—

Manholes baited—155; Number showing infestation, 102.

The two special schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture for grant-aid in respect of sewer maintenance (30%) and domestic dwellings (60%) terminated on 31st March, and was superseded by the provision of a consolidated grant of 50% of the net cost of all rodent control work.

Public Cleansing—Controlled tipping is carried out at the Irthlingborough Tip. The Council maintain 5 vehicles for the collection of refuse. The number of loads taken by these vehicles during the year was 7,750.

Dustbins—Following the general deterioration in the type and quality of refuse receptacles during the War period, there are in the Urban District an extremely large number of premises which are using unsatisfactory containers—oil drums, tea-chests, boxes and the like being in use. Apart from the fact that the use of such containers makes the work of efficient refuse collection very difficult, the danger from the public health aspect, owing to the breeding of flies which are carriers of disease, is very apparent, particularly during the summer period.

A survey of properties has been undertaken by the Engineer and Surveyor, resulting in several hundred premises being referred to this Department for service of Notice under the Public Health Act. The visiting and re-visiting of such a large number of premises involves considerable time which can be ill afforded, with the increasing amount of work in other directions. 263 visits were made to premises and 116 notices served. For the most part intimation notices secured the provision of new receptacles and statutory action was necessary in only a few instances.

The recent adoption by the Local Authority of powers under the Public Health Act, to provide and maintain dust bins at an annual charge will have many advantages, and is a step towards ensuring the proper storage of refuse in a uniform type and quality receptacle.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement—While Wellingborough is fortunate in that its industry, though extensive, is of such a character as to make use of electricity as a motive power to a great extent, many steam raising plants and industrial processes capable of emitting smoke, grit and fumes, however, exist.

Observations of industrial chimneys were made in thirteen instances, resulting in thirty-two interviews with works managers and engineers. In many cases nuisances were found to be due very largely to the poor quality of fuel supplied for industrial purposes. Advice was given in several instances as to methods of stoking and plant management with a view to securing the efficient use of fuel and consequent prevention of smoke emission.

It is often not realised that the emission of large volumes of black smoke from factory chimneys is a sign of bad economy rather than of progress and efficiency.

During the year investigations were commenced, by the use of the Standard Deposit Gauge, into the pollution arising from the emission of dust and grit from the local iron works which has been the source of complaint and nuisance in the northern and eastern parts of the town for several years. Two such gauges were sited and these have since been increased to four.

The investigations have been carried out in conjunction with the Atmospheric Pollution Section of the Fuel Research Station, and also Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds, Ltd., at Corby, who have co-operated in carrying out the necessary chemical analyses.

The following is a tabular summary of the results of the investigations covering a period of eight months.

Total Deposits in tons per square mile.			
Month	Hillside Road Site	Water Cooler Site	Average
April	72.07	29.88	50.98
May	93.92	21.25	57.59
June	77.48	32.17	54.82
July	68.81	39.87	54.34
Aug.	65.72	42.10	53.91
Sept.	34.79	68.83	49.31
Oct.	53.20	30.68	41.94
Nov.	19.09	34.52	26.80
Dec.	25.14	24.23	24.69
Total	510.22	318.54	414.38
Average per month ..	56.70	35.39	46.04

Offensive Trades—There are only three legally defined Offensive Trades carried on within the Urban District in respect of which inspections have been made. These trades include:—

Gut Scraper, 1. Rag and Bone Dealers, 2.

No complaint of nuisance was received.

Places where Animals are kept.—Twenty-three inspections were made in connection with the keeping of swine and other animals. Little nuisance was experienced and few complaints received.

Rivers Pollution—Inspections of various points along the rivers and streams within the Urban District were made during the year. Few complaints were, however, received. There are no major sources of pollution within the Urban District.

One instance occurred of the intermittent discharge of oil through a surface water sewer into the Swanspool Brook. This was thoroughly investigated but no evidence could be found of the actual source of pollution.

Common Lodging Houses—At the beginning of the year there was one common lodging house affording accommodation for 28 persons.

During the year, legal proceedings were instituted against the keeper for non-registration under Section 236 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The premises were considered entirely unsuitable for use as a lodging house, being in a very bad state of repair, with no proper facilities nor means of escape in case of fire, and were subsequently closed.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

On the 31st December, 1948, the number of live applicants for Council Houses was 927. Although this figure shows a fall on the number of applicants for the previous year (1,358) the housing situation still remains acute.

During 1948 work was commenced on 65 houses, seven of these by Private Enterprise. 169 houses were completed during the year (23 private enterprise). Work on some of these 169 houses was commenced in 1947.

The total number of houses under construction on 31st December 1948, was 111 made up as follows :—

Neilson Estate 24 houses (Orlit 3 bedroom).

Croyland Estate 80 Houses (16 Orlit 3 bedroom ; 46 Traditional 3 bedroom ; 18 Traditional 2 bedroom).

Private Enterprise 7 Houses.

Also schemes approved for a further 91 houses (21 Private enterprise) and contracts pending.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports as follows :—

Housing—The general position regarding housing repairs has improved very little during the year, there being still a very large amount of arrears of dilapidations to be remedied. On the whole, notices have been confined to work of an urgent and essential character, following the

request of the Ministry of Health ; no comprehensive steps having been taken in regard to the full reconditioning of dwelling-houses under the Housing Act, 1936.

In a few instances it was necessary to require the execution of urgent repairs at dilapidated properties which would normally have been dealt with by Clearance or Demolition Order procedure.

The continued shortage of labour and essential materials, coupled with rising prices, still hampers the work of housing maintenance and repair, it being often difficult to obtain the execution of repairs within a reasonable time. Some easement of the position has, however, resulted, following the raising of the licensing ceiling from £10 in each six monthly period to £100 over a year. Much time was taken up by the Department during the first half of the year in investigating applications for building licences for works above the limit of £10, most of which were in respect of voluntary repairs and decorations.

Although very considerable slum clearance work has already been carried out during the five years prior to the War, there are still a large number of properties constituting cramped and unhealthy areas which require to be dealt with. There were at the end of the year 95 houses subject to Clearance or Demolition Orders, 56 of which were still in occupation, 13 being by licence under Defence Regulation 68A. During the year two Demolition Orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, and 22 families rehoused from condemned houses.

The problem of unfit houses is now engaging the attention of the Ministry of Health and it is hoped that plans for the recommencement of slum clearance and the more extensive repair and reconditioning of houses will be following. Schemes of this character must necessarily be based on a comprehensive survey of housing conditions, and one is glad to know that such a project is already under consideration.

Overcrowding—The investigation of overcrowding conditions has demanded considerable attention. 59 cases were dealt with, many being in response to requests for support of applications for Council Houses, and also enquiries from other departments of the Council and other local authorities. It has not been possible to keep accurate records, but it is evident that there is a considerable amount of overcrowding, constituting unhealthy living conditions, in the district.

SECTION E.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk—A considerable amount of milk retailed in Wellingborough is produced at farms situated outside the Urban District.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936—1946.

Eleven licences were granted by the Council as follows :—

Pasteurisers Licences (Holder Process)	..	..	..	3
Tuberculin-Tested Bottling Licences	..	..	..	2
Tuberculin-Tested Dealer's Licences	..	..	..	4
Pasteurised Dealers' Licences	..	..	..	2

Licences in respect of producers were granted by the County Council as follows :—

Tuberculin-Tested	2
Accredited	8

Tuberculin-Tested and Accredited milk producers are supervised by the County Council who carry out regular sampling. The examination and testing of herds are carried out by veterinary inspectors appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

When the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, comes into operation, the responsibility for the control of milk production will be transferred from local authorities to the Minister of Agriculture.

Pasteurised Milk—There is one large and two small pasteurising plants of the ‘positive-holding’ type in the Urban District. Regular samples, at least twice a month, are taken for examination in accordance with prescribed tests under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. A very high percentage of all the milk consumed in the district is pasteurised or heat-treated.

Examination of Milk—232 samples of milk were procured for examination at the County Laboratory, the results of which are briefly summarised as follows.

Type or Designation	No.Procured	RESULTS.	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfact’ry
Pasteurised	54	51	3
Tuberculin-Tested	30	24	6
Heat-Treated	26	22	4
Raw, Non-Designated	122	97	25

Samples upon which adverse reports were received, were followed by investigation and the procuring of further samples.

Biological Testing for Tubercle Bacilli—No samples were taken during the year.

Ice Cream—At the end of the year 22 premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture of Ice Cream, and 26 for the storage and sale only. There were 17 new registrations during the year.

Special attention has been directed to the manufacture and sale of this commodity following the introduction of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. These regulations broadly require the ingredients of ice cream to be heat-treated or pasteurised during its manufacture, and that it be kept after freezing, at a temperature not exceeding 28° F. They also contain provisions for securing the adoption of hygienic methods in the preparation and handling of the commodity.

During the year 118 inspections were made in controlling the hygienic condition of ice cream premises and in procuring samples for bacteriological examination.

43 samples were submitted for examination by the Plate Count and Methylene Blue Tests—the latter being that recommended by a Committee of the Public Health Laboratory Service for defining four provisional grades of bacteriological cleanliness for Ice Cream.

In view of the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream, it is intended that judgment should be based on the results of a series, rather than on individual samples.

The following are summaries of the results.

Plate Count Test.

(To 31.7.48).

Type	No.	V.Good	Good	Mod.	Bad.
Heat-Treated	7	2	4	1	—
Complete Cold Mix ..	7	3	—	2	2

Methylene Blue Test (From 1.8.48).

Type	No.	Provisional Grade.			
		1	2	3	4
Heat-Treated	15	6	6	2	1
Complete Cold Mix ..	14	2	4	5	3

Manufacture and Sale of Preserved Food—49 premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved foods. Except in one instance, where informal action was necessary, the premises were on the whole found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Itinerant Vendors of Food—Regular observations have been made of mobile food vendors, including market stalls, to ensure the sale of food is in a fit and proper condition. No action was found necessary during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

43 persons are licensed by the Council under the Act. 7 new and renewal licences were granted during the year. Licences are issued for a period of three years.

Meat and Food Inspection—The 17 slaughterhouses in the Urban District have not been in regular use since 1939. Licences in respect of these premises have, however, been renewed with one exception, so that they may be used in case of emergency and for the occasional slaughter of home-produced pigs.

The slaughtering for local requirements is carried out at Rushden where the central Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse for the area is situated, all animals being subject to 100% inspection by meat and food inspectors prior to delivery.

The need for the provision of a modern Public Abattoir for the Urban District is again emphasised, having regard to its area, population and

that fact that it owns one of the principal fat stock markets in the area. In this connection, it is felt that the time is well opportune for the Government to determine its long-term policy in regard to the future of slaughtering.

Under arrangements with the Food Executive Officer, notification is given of all licences issued under the Ministry of Food Scheme for the slaughter of pigs for home consumption, with a view to the inspection of the carcasses and organs prior to removal.

During the year 141 visits were made to slaughterhouses and 233 pigs were inspected, of which only 11 or 4.7% were found to be abnormal.

192 visits were made to shops and other premises for the examination of food-stuffs. 1½ tons of meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption in respect of which 109 certificates of condemnation were issued.

Particulars are given in table No. 7 page 25.

Meat Distribution—Meat is transported from the central slaughterhouse at Rushden to butcher's shops and food manufacturing premises by transport firms acting for the Ministry of Food under a District Transport Officer. The vehicles used are properly constructed for this type of work, and totally enclosed. No complaint with regard to the transport and handling of the meat was reported during the year, which is on the whole carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Food and Drugs Adulteration.—Sampling in connection with the composition of food and drugs in the Urban District is carried out by the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority.

Unfortunately no details are available as to the operation of the Act in Wellingborough during the year.

Anthrax Order, 1938—No case of Anthrax or suspected Anthrax in animals was notified during the year.

Petroleum (Regulation Acts, 1829 and 1936)—The number of licences issued in respect of premises for the storage of petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium was 77. The conditions attached to the licences have been observed.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox—No cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever—There were 15 cases during the year as against 19 cases for the previous year. 4 cases were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria—No cases were notified. This is the second year when no cases occurred in the district.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis—The following table gives details of the progress of immunisation amongst the child population as at 31st December, 1948.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.								
Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1948.								
Age at 31.12.48 i.e. Born in Year ...	<i>Under</i>					5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
	1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	1939-1943	1934-1938	<i>under 15</i>
Number Immunised	20	166	222	225	274	1,340	1,503	3,750
Estimated mid-year population 1948	2,371					3,514		

These figures do not include children immunised by private arrangements.

An immunisation clinic is held at the Rock Street Clinic on the 1st Saturday morning of each month, and comes under the County Council Health Department.

Measles—There were 267 cases during the year. One case was removed to hospital. 212 cases occurred during the months of March, April and May. In 1947 there were 375 cases of measles.

The age and sex incidence is given in Table No. 12 page 28.

Whooping Cough—There were 43 cases during the year compared with 61 for the previous year.

The age and sex incidence of this disease is also given in Table No. 12 page 28.

Puerperal Pyrexia—Two cases were notified during the year.

Pneumonia—28 notifications were received and there were 11 deaths.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever—No cases were notified.

Erysipelas—8 notifications were received.

Influenza—No notifications of Influenza received.

Dysentery—No cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis—One case was notified.

Tuberculosis—No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936, during 1948. There were 11 cases of Tuberculosis notified (9 Males and 2 Females), of these eleven cases, 10 were of the respiratory tract (8 males, 2 females) and one (male) non-pulmonary.

Pulmonary infections—10.

Non pulmonary lesions—1.

9 people from Wellingborough were admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium and 14 were discharged during the year.

There were 10 deaths from Tuberculosis, 9 from Pulmonary lesions and 1 from a non-pulmonary lesion.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 152—112 being pulmonary cases and 40 non-pulmonary.

The number of new cases (all forms) notified during the past three years were as follows :—

1946	1947	1948
35	22	11

The mortality during the corresponding period was :—

Year	Tuberculosis—All forms			Rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	Wellingborough	County
1946	1	7	8	.28	.45
1947	4	4	8	.27	.36
1948	4	6	10	.35	*

*not available.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

In the case of all factories the provisions as to sanitary conveniences were on the whole satisfactorily maintained. Those factories in which mechanical power is not used—the cleanliness, number employed, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors—gave no cause for serious complaint.

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED AT FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred.	
			To H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness ..	6	6	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences ..				
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	1	—	2
(c) not separable for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	4	—
TOTAL	10	8	5	2

No prosecutions were instituted.

Outwork—Half-yearly lists were received from 40 employers and 6 outside authorities in respect of 448 outworkers living in the Urban District.

No action was taken in respect of outwork being carried on in unwholesome premises.

Shops Acts, 1912 to 1938.—The sanitary conditions in shops has received as much attention as possible. 72 inspections were made during the year.

Legal proceedings were instituted in one instance for a contravention of closing hours, the defendant was convicted and fined £1.

Form 572 (Revised) has been abridged and is given as Table No 15, page 31.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1948.

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Typhoid and para-typhoid Fevers	...	...			—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...			4	5	9
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Acute infective encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)					2	—	2
	uterus (F)	...				—	5	5
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...			6	1	7
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	—	5	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	19	12	31
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	22	29	51
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	66	42	108
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...			5	2	7
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	14	7	21
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	6	11
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...			3	—	3
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...			—	1	1
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases.	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	15	14	29
ALL CAUSES						183	152	335

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES.

TABLE NO. 2.

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	2	·07	6	·21	66	2·38	149	5·37	25	·90
1947	1	·03	7	·24	53	1·88	173	6·14	24	·85
1948	1	·03	9	·31	50	1·77	166	5·87	35	1·23

COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH.

TABLE NO. 3.

Year	Stillbirths per 1,000		Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births	Male births per 1,000 live female births
	Population of all ages	Total births (live and still)		
1946	·54	29·29	62·37	1,004
1947	·53	22·93	65·72	1,022
1948	·46	18·37	49·40	1,000

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1948 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

TABLE NO. 4.

Year	Estimated Population mid-year	Births		Deaths			
				Under 1 year		All ages	
		No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1946	27,740	497	17·91	14	28·16	345	12·43
1947	28,170	639	22·68	23	35·99	346	12·28
1948	28,240	506	17·91	15	29·64	335	11·86

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT AND 148 SMALLER TOWNS AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1948.

TABLE No. 5.

	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000-50,000 1931 Census	Wellingborough
Live Births	17·90	19·20	17·91
Stillbirths	·42	0·43	0·46
Deaths			
All causes	10·80	10·70	11·86
Typhoid	·00	·00	·00
Scarlet Fever	·00	·00	·00
Whooping Cough	·02	·02	·00
Diphtheria	·00	·00	·00
Influenza	·03	·04	·00
Smallpox	·00	·00	·00
Measles	·00	·00	·00
Deaths under one year	34	32	29·64
Notifications.			
Typhoid	·01	·01	·00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	·03	·02	·00
Scarlet Fever	1·73	1·82	·53
Whooping Cough	3·42	3·31	1·52
Diphtheria	·08	·09	·00
Erysipelas	·21	·21	·28
Measles	9·34	8·84	9·45
Pnuemonia	·73	·60	·99

SANITARY INSPECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA.
Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year 1948.

TABLE No. 1.

GENERAL.

Total Inspections and Visits	4526
Complaints received	131
Preliminary Notices served	159
Secondary Notices served	45
Statutory Notices served	17
Letters, etc. received	1005
Letters, etc. dispatched	1419
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders ..	380

TABLE No. 2.

Inspection Work.

(a) General Sanitary Work.

Water Supply	66
Drainage and Sewerage	384
Closet Accommodation	104
Refuse collection and disposal	263
Common Lodging Houses	11
Moveable Dwellings	11
Places of Entertainment	17
Rivers Pollution	10
Offensive Accumulations	44
Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement	45
Infectious Disease, Disinfection, etc.	34
Keeping of Animals	23
Rodent Control	1366
(b) Housing—Inspection of Dwelling Houses under Public Health and Housing Acts	718
(c) Shops Acts	93
(d) Factories Act	223
(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1938—	
Meat and Food Inspection	192
Food Shops	72
Food preparing premises	44
Ice Cream premises	118
(d) Miscellaneous	416

TABLE NO. 7.

Commodity	Non-Preserved			Preserved.		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat (Various) ..					3	3
Bacon		1	14			14
Sausages			9			9
Fish	5		15	7	3	15
Shell-Fish	1	2	14			
Prawns		2				
Vegetables				5		7
Mixed Pickles ..						20
Fruit				2	2	21
Jams and Preserves ..					1	27
Sugar			5			
Milk					3	1
Cheese		1	7			
Cooking Fat ..		1				
Eggs		2				
Dried Egg						1
Miscellaneous ..				2	2	15

Total Weight of foodstuffs condemned—1 ton 9 cwts. 2 qrs. 1 lb.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1948.

Table No. 10.

Disease	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65-	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever		1	1	1	3	9							15	4	
Pneumonia		2	1	1	2	3	2	1	6	1	7	2	28		11
Measles	11	34	23	35	73	78	7	4	2				267	1	
Whooping Cough	4	4	7	4	12	11			1				43		
Erysipelas											6	2	8		
Puerperal Pyrexia									2				2		1
Diphtheria															
Dysentery															
Cerebro-spinal fever															
Poliomyelitis									1				1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1												1		
TOTAL	16	41	32	41	90	101	9	5	12	1	13	4	365	5	12

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1948.

Table No. 11.

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Scarlet Fever		2	6		2	1	1		1	2			15
Pneumonia	8	9	2		2				1	1	2	3	28
Measles	1	32	81	89	42	17	3	1	1				267
Whooping Cough	4	1	2	1	2		8	2		2	10	11	43
Erysipelas	1	1	1		1		1				2	1	8
Puerperal Pyrexia				1	1								2
Diphtheria													
Dysentery													
Cerebro-spinal fever													
Poliomyelitis										1			1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum							1						1
TOTAL	14	45	92	91	50	18	14	3	3	6	14	15	365

**MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.**

Table No. 12.

Age Periods	Measles		Whooping Cough.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
—6 months	2		1	
—12 months	5	4	2	1
—18 months	11	12	2	1
—2 years	7	4		1
—2½ years	6	6	1	4
—3 years	5	6	2	
—4 years	17	18	2	2
—5 years	32	41	7	5
—10 years	44	34	9	2
—15 years		7		
15 years	1	5	1	
ALL AGES	130	137	27	16
TOTALS ..	267		43	

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1948.

Table No. 13.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory	
	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male
—1								
—5	1	1						1
—15								
—25	3				2	2		
—35	3	1				2		
—45			1		2	1		
—55	1							
—65								
65+								
TOTALS	8	2	1		4	5		1

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

TABLE No. 14.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Age in Weeks</i>					<i>Total</i>
	-1	-2	-3	-4	5-52	
1. Congenital malformations ..						
2. Diseases of Early Infancy Congenital debility and icterus						
Premature Birth ...	2					2
Injury at Birth	2					2
Atelectasis	1					1
Others						
3. Diseases of Respiratory System	1			1	4	6
4. Diseases of Digestive System					2	2
5. Diseases of Nervous System						
6. Tuberculosis diseases ..						
7. Infectious Diseases ..						
8. Syphilis						
9. Overlaying						
10. Other Violence						
11. All Other Causes					2	2
TOTALS	6			1	8	15

TABLE No. 15.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

For the Year 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT**1—INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	33	36	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	215	138	8	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	20	20	—	Nil
TOTAL ...	268	194	9	Nil

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	6	6	1		Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1			Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1		2	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)			4		Nil
TOTAL ...	10	8	5	2	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel Making, etc. ...	375					
Cleaning and washing ...						
Furniture & Upholstery	12					
Carding, etc. of Buttons, etc.	61					
TOTAL ...	448					

